

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has authorised FCI to undertake open sale of wheat in various States/UTs with certain stipulations after meeting the requirements of PDS. The sale is open to all including Roller Flour Mills/traders etc. A quantity of 4.30 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been sold by FCI in open sale during April-June, 1996.

(c) Wholesale Price Index of wheat products has moved as under :-

| Commodity | Base 1981-82=100 | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|---------|
| | 25.5.96 | 1.6.96 | 29.6.96 |
| Grain Mill Products | 299.5 | 297.9 | 298.7 |
| Maida | 265.9 | 263.9 | 269.9 |
| Supr | 255.7 | 255.7 | 261.3 |
| Atta | 319.2 | 319.2 | 319.8 |

(d) State Governments/UTs have been requested to ensure that the prices of wheat and wheat products remain at levels in conformity with the open sale prices of wheat. Open sale of wheat for domestic consumption is also continuing.

Decontrol of Sugar

979. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1369 on December 5, 1995 and state

(a) whether the claim of the Maharashtra Government has been paid to them

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Maharashtra Government has been requested to provide in support of its claim copies of the advise to sell the sugar at below cost price. The same has not yet been received.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

980. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) the production of steel during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the target fixed for production of steel during 1995-96 by the Bokaro Steel Plant and whether it has been achieved; and

(c) the profit earned or loss incurred by the Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of finished steel during the last three years was as follows :-

| (in million tonnes) | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Year | Quantity |
| 1993-94 | 15.20 |
| 1994-95 | 17.82 |
| 1995-96 (Prov.) | 21.69 |

(b) Targets are fixed for SAIL Plants in terms of saleable steel. The target for Bokaro Steel Plant during 1995-96 was 3220 thousand tonnes of saleable steel and production was 3330 thousand tonnes, 103% of the target.

(c) The year-wise profit earned by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years is given below :-

| (Rs. in crores) | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Year | Quantity |
| 1993-94 | 467.82 |
| 1994-95 | 662.21 |
| 1995-96 | 805.95 |

[English]

Flight between Calicut-Bombay

981. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Indian Airlines flights between Calicut and Bombay into a domestic flight;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The flight from Calicut to Bombay is domestic leg of an international flight catering to passengers ex-Calicut/Bombay to Gulf and vice-versa. Its conversion into a domestic flight will cause hardship to Gulf bound passengers from Calicut.

Unmilled Paddy

982. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 30 lakh tonnes of paddy are lying unmilled in Punjab;